**HOW SHELTER CONTRIBUTES TO PROTECTION OUTCOMES**

Shelter contributes to protection outcomes in many ways:

* **Physical protection** from the elements such as rain, wind, sun, dust, and extreme temperatures; and from animals such as snakes or insects. This function is also complemented by certain Non-Food Items such as blankets and mats.
* **Safety and security**: strong shelters provide safety from many physical attacks. Less sturdy structures also create a boundary or a physical limit that can deter minor aggressions. Even basic shelters isolate visually from the outside which provides a space for their inhabitants to behave more freely and be themselves.
* **Dignity:** living in a shelter has an important impact in one’s feeling of being worthy of respect. The shelter, in a similar way as clothes do, provides the physical envelope that presents the person or the family in society.
* **Children and family unity:** a shelteris a physical reference for children, a place where they know they will find their family, a place where they can grow up, feel secure, study, and develop themselves. Often the shelter represents the family, makes it tangible, and symbolizes its unity.
* **Security for belongings:** a shelter provides a space to store valuables, savings, clothes and important documents. It protects these belongings from the elements and reduces the risk of theft.
* **Basis for recovery:** safe shelter is typically one of the first priorities for displaced people or others of concern. Once this basic need is met they are better placed to address other more complex priorities such as the fulfilment of their rights or the pursuit of durable solutions.
* **Platform for the pursuit of livelihoods:** many livelihoods activities take place at home, some of them while undertaking other tasks such as taking care of children.Often a shelter can share its residential function with a commercial one. People find it easier to leave home to secure a livelihood knowing that their family is adequately sheltered.
* **A place in the community:** shelters are located in a settlement or neighbourhood, next to other shelters identifying neighbours with whom to interact. These neighbours often remain the same for some time, which allows for the creation of a support network and the establishment of social ties, making families and their individuals more resilient.
* **An address, certain rights:** a shelter provides a reliable place to find its inhabitants, an address where objects can be sent to, and that can be used for administrative purposes. Inhabiting a shelter provides certain rights statutory, customary, or informal. In some countries, the continuous habitation of a place for a certain time provides ownership of that place.  Other rights or the access to certain types of support may be contingent upon having an address.People without a shelter may be limited in the exercise of some rights.
* **An investment for the future:** a sheltercan easily be incrementally upgraded and improved to become something more durable. The housing sector is typically a valued long term investment which can also be used. Particularly for non-displaced population their shelter is an asset and an investment for the future.